

# The Builder.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1850.



THE British Archaeological Association have been holding their annual congress in Manchester and Lancaster. Some excellent papers have been read, and several instructive, as well as pleasant excursions made. We shall get what we can from them for the advantage of our readers. The principal works now in progress in Manchester are warehouses, of which, indeed, it will soon mainly consist; and we shall next week give an elevation and plan of one of these now going up at the corner of Parker-street and Portland-street, under the able superintendence of Mr. J. E. Grogan (the architect of Sir Benjamin Heywood's bank, engraved in our journal some time since), and to whom, by the way, the Association are much indebted for friendly exertions.

The modern warehouses of Manchester, imposing by their extent and height, have also architectural character, and render the streets peculiar in aspect. Several are now going up: we may mention, in addition to the last-named, one at the corner of Dickenson-street and Cooper-street, by Messrs. Travis and Magnall, displaying skill and fancy; and another large pile in Peter-street, by Mr. Donnison, scarcely so good. The additions to the Infirmary, under the direction of Mr. Lane, are going on. An Industrial Establishment for the poor of the parish is about to be erected, at a cost of from two to three thousand pounds, under the direction of Mr. Dickson. There is also to be a new Fever Hospital. The mayor and others show much anxiety that the money which has been subscribed for the erection of a monument to Sir Robert Peel (4,700*l.*) should be satisfactorily expended, but they have not yet decided on the course to be pursued to obtain a design. The site proposed for it is in the piece of water opposite the Infirmary: we may have something more to say upon it. The interior of the Exchange, which has been judiciously decorated with colour, presents several points for admiration, but is not without blemishes, amongst the most prominent of which is the position of the beams of the ceiling of the side divisions, which are unfortunately placed without reference to the windows in the side walls. Near the Exchange is a pile of shops and offices erected lately under the direction of Mr. Walters, who has already done something towards the adornment of Manchester. The cornice is not without elegance, but the broken pediment to admit the window of first floor to appear, is scarcely defensible.

Amongst the works about to be commenced is a direction-post at the corner of All Saints' Churchyard, from the design of Mr. Truett. It is also to answer the purpose of a lamp, and is so ingenious and novel that we have given a representation of it.\* This is now being executed in wrought iron. The direction slabs are of thick white earthenware glazed, and having red letters, and the base is carved out of a block of granite. The pedestal is 4 feet 6 inches in height, and the ironwork

13 feet 6 inches—thus making the total height from pavement 18 feet.

The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Salford, is a building of great merit, from the drawings of Mr. Hadfield. The west front is a reproduction of a well-known example. It is a cross church of great size, with tower and spire at the intersection. The chancel is prepared for a groined vault, and has a large sculptured figure over each of the main columns. The interior wants decoration to relieve its bareness.

A temporary museum has been opened by the Association at the Mechanic's Institution, and contains many objects of interest. We trust it will not be dispersed without letting the public have the advantage of it for a day or two.

At the opening meeting in the Town Hall, on the 19th inst., James Heywood, Esq., M.P., as president, delivered an opening address, in the course of which he said—relative to the fact that, until of late years, the science of archaeology had not been attended to in England in the manner it had been on the continent—that he considered it a very great advantage which the Germans, and particularly the Prussians, had had in having a minister at the court of Rome. M. Niebuhr specially mentioned, in the dedication of his History of Rome, the advantage which he gained from his long residence there, and the archaeological researches there carried on. Niebuhr certainly was at the head of his profession; and his history was, in point of fact, a re-writing of the history of that interesting country. His secretary and pupil was the Chevalier Bunsen, now the Prussian minister at St. James's. The chevalier formerly gave great attention to Roman antiquities; and latterly, in a period of leisure, he had given his time to the subject of the antiquities of Egypt. After much study, he had brought out a work which traced more clearly than any other in existence the immense antiquity of Egypt. He carried back his researches to a period 3,000 or 4,000 years before Christ, and he thought it proved that the Egyptians had had a regular line of kings for at least 3,000 years of that period. This was such an entire change from our pre-conceived notions, and we must give a so much longer period to the duration of the human race on the earth than we had been in the habit of doing, that he (the president) thought we should have to have our chronology re-written. No discoveries in archaeology had, in fact, been more surprising than those of Bunsen and Wilkinson, with regard to the immense antiquity of Egypt. Bunsen's work had been published several years, and he (the president) had not seen any other work in opposition to it. We owed a great deal to our English writers for bringing forward in England, in a popular shape, what had been done in Germany: Arnold had made Niebuhr popular with us in a way he never could have been but for his (Arnold's) translation, so that we repaid the debt we owed to Germany, by bringing forward the researches of her writers in a more popular and tangible shape. They owed a great deal to the arts of wood engraving and lithography in making archaeology popular, by supplying such beautiful illustrations with which archaeologists might illustrate their papers. At the close, Mr. Heywood expressed his desire that the Association and the Archaeological Institute should be united, as together they would do more good than singly.

Mr. A. Ashpitel then gave an account of the

cathedral, which we give in full elsewhere. Mr. Godwin drew attention to the dangerous state of the cathedral tower, and expressed a hope that the authorities would give early attention to the subject, and direct their architect to take steps for effecting the necessary repairs.

At the evening meeting Mr. Pettigrew, F.R.S. read a very able paper on the study of archaeology, and the particular objects of the Association. The pursuits of the true antiquary, he said, demanded a knowledge and exercise of various attainments. To render his labours effective, he must possess no little acquaintance with heraldry, with genealogy, with various languages, in which inscriptions were to be found, either on monuments or in manuscripts, with history in general, and particular manners and customs, and a variety of other attainments, scarcely to be expected to be found combined in one individual. Hence the benefit of such associations as the present, where persons of different knowledge and attainments combined together, to elucidate the events and memorials of past ages. The present time was peculiarly favourable for antiquarian research: for, from the spread of education, there had been created and fostered a desire to protect and preserve that which was likely to throw light upon any subject of investigation, rather than to wilfully destroy them. The great number of societies and clubs existing in different parts of the empire satisfactorily proved the desire there was for antiquarian research. It was the province of the antiquary to collect, assort, and connect together the various particulars he might find scattered either in the pages of history or in his search for antiquities, so as to elucidate each other, and bring them into one general system.

Mr. Planche, F.S.A., followed with a paper on the Stanley Crest, wherein he contrived, as he has often done before, to invest heraldic matter with great general interest.

A comprehensive paper was read by Mr. J. C. Bruce, "On the Structure of the Norman Castle," to which we hope to revert. On Tuesday the Association made an excursion to Whalley Abbey, afterwards to Ribchester, and thence to Lancaster, to hold an evening meeting, whereat papers were read on the Badges of York and Lancaster, by Mr. Planche; on the History of Witchcraft, by Mr. Thomas Wright; and on the Barbican in connection with our Castles. More, however, anon. We give, as a further memento of the visit, a view of Hornby Castle, Lancashire, the seat of Pudsey Dawson, Esq., and scene of one of the excursions, which has recently been restored by Messrs. Paley and Sharpe.\* Of this building we shall be able to speak next week.

## ON THE ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY OF MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

IN consequence of the destruction of the documents referring to the cathedral at the time of the civil war, any investigation must be undertaken by wading through a great mass of tradition, and dissecting *membra collecta* from one source or another. One of the advantages of archaeological study was that the more we investigated, the more beauties and excellencies we found. The dust of an old charter frequently turned into the gold of valuable knowledge; and it was the speaker's opinion that there was yet before us, in every one of the edifices of our mediæval architects, an immense amount of really valuable and interesting information. It was too often the case that the past was forgotten in

\* See p. 322.

By Mr. Arthur Ashpitel, at Archaeological Congress.